From: Debra

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 11/16/01 7:38pm

**Subject:** MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

## Dear Sir/Madam:

I believe that the appeals court has been very wise in the microsoft case. I am a consumer of microsoft products. I believe that business must be allowed to grow and profit in America to keep free interprise alive. I do feel that Microsoft was restrictive in sharing their knowledge and that the threat of a Monopoly was a concern. I believe that consumers and business's benefit when companys have the right to develop products and prosper from that development.

I realize that software is the product many companys have to offer and that when a large corporation like Microsoft has the technology to prevent the copying of their products it would benefit other companys if Microsoft would sell them that technology. The question I pose is should a company be forced to sell their secrets?

Perhaps the real issue is how long a company may keep new technology to themselves before they must sell/share that technology?. The Drug companies have a system that seems to work to keep the cost of making drugs affordable.

Thanks for listening,
A Consumer
Debra Cook
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